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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. ELLMERS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 15, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RENEE ELLMERS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING OUR NATION'S ENGINEERS DURING NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LIPINSKI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, as one of only a handful of engineers in Congress, I am proud again to sponsor a resolution honoring our Nation's engineers during National Engineers Week. This is my seventh year introducing this resolution, and it has a special significance this year.

Next week will mark the 60th anniversary of Engineers Week, and with

nearly half of the practicing engineers in our country eligible to retire over the next few years, the central goal of Engineers Week, attracting new students to engineering careers, has never been more important. That is why educating and inspiring America's youth about engineering and science needs to be a national priority.

Engineers design and build all of our everyday products, such as bridges, airplanes, roads, computers, medical devices, cars and power plants, just to name a few. But engineering is more than that. Engineering is problem solving. We have many problems to solve, from our dependence on foreign oil to our crumbling infrastructure. And as a recent National Academies report explained, while only 4 percent of our Nation's workforce is composed of engineers and scientists, this group disproportionately creates jobs for the other 96 percent.

America's 2.5 million engineers have helped make our country great by solving problems and turning dreams into reality, and America's future depends on them. Unfortunately, oftentimes their contributions, though, go unnoticed. National Engineers Week seeks to fix this problem through events aimed at educating youth and fostering public awareness of the vital contributions made by engineers to our quality of life and our economic prosperity.

Engineers Week promotes recognition among parents, teachers, and students of the importance of STEM education and literacy. This year's theme is "Engineers Make a World of Difference: A Celebration of Engineer Volunteerism." It recognizes the more than 1 million hours annually that America's engineers contribute to public service.

The celebratory events include the Future City Competition, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, and Discover Engineering Family Day, which all impart an appreciation of the wonders of

engineering to our children of all backgrounds.

I can attest to my own childhood experiences with science and engineering and how they captivated me. I remember in high school at St. Ignatius my calculus and physics teachers, especially Father Thul and Father Fergus, helped mold my childhood fascination into an interest in engineering. These teachers, together with informal experiences at places like the Museum of Science and Industry and even at Brookfield Zoo, helped motivate me to pursue an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Northwestern University and a degree in engineering economic systems from Stanford. One of the central goals of National Engineers Week is to provide this kind of inspiration for the next generation of students.

During Engineers Week in Chicago I will be attending the Engineers Week celebratory dinner, where they will give the Washington Award to a professor from Purdue University and will be honoring students who have made contributions in engineering through the Future Cities projects.

I would like to encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution and go home and find some Engineers Week celebrations that are going on and participate in them in your districts. This is a great opportunity for us to thank the engineers who have contributed so much to our country and inspire that next generation of engineers that our country so terribly needs to solve the problems that face us today.

THE JAILS ARE FULL OF FOREIGN CRIMINALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I bring you news from the war on our

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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